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Examiner: A. Mehta

Art Unit:

1638

Docket No.: 19603/10303 (CRF D-1043A)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants

Gonsalves et al.

09/426,783

Cnfrm. No.

Serial No.

2343

Filed

October 22, 1999

For

TOSPOVIRUS RESISTANCE IN PLANTS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

P.O. Box 2327

Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

In response to the September 24, 2002, written restriction requirement, applicants hereby elect Group I (i.e., claims 4-9) with traverse. Applicants submit that the claims of the present application are closely related and, therefore, require common areas of search and consideration. Since no benefit is derived from imposing this restriction requirement, it should be withdrawn in its entirety.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 24, 2003

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is deposited with the United States Postal Service first class mail in an envelope addressed to: U.S. Petent and Trademark Office